



CENSUS TIPS FOR GROUP RESIDENCES

Why is the census important? The census will decide how many Representatives we send to Congress, shape voting districts, and determine how **\$400 billion** in federal funds are distributed. That's money for hospitals, schools, transportation, social services and other programs that benefit our communities and are supported by our tax dollars.

The Census Bureau is a federal organization authorized to conduct its work with the citizens of Connecticut. Cooperation with census takers is required as described here:

<http://2010.census.gov/partners/pdf/ConstituentFAQ.pdf>

- Census takers are already beginning to survey group residences
- They can be identified by an official ID & matching picture ID they possess
- Providers should allow every courtesy in helping them do their job
- Staff can call their local census office for verification, questions, guidance (see below)
- All individual information gathered by the canvassers is kept confidential and is never shared outside of the census process
- Clients should be strongly encouraged to participate and reassured of the confidentiality of what they share

Group residence staff may have particular concerns about participating in the Census while still remaining compliant with federal and state confidentiality and privacy laws. While the suggestions below are not intended to provide legal advice, providers and staff of group residences might want to consider the following strategies:

- Clients can voluntarily talk to census workers or fill out forms on their own
- Staff can assist clients to fill out their census forms
- Staff can bring clients to a local Questionnaire Assistance Center where they can be counted. To find a center in your area, hours of operation, etc., contact the Local Census Office nearest you (see below)
- Staff can obtain consent to provide client information to a census worker.

If you have any questions about the census you can visit their website or contact the local census office nearest to you. That information can be found here: [Local Census Offices](#).

Clients may also want to consider working for the Census Bureau. Recruitment for temporary employment opportunities offering competitive wages is underway.